Fixation of prices of Medicines

778. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines/yardsticks prescribed for fixation of prices of medicines;

(b) whether it is a fact that the drug manufacturing companies are charging exorbitant prices for pills and drugs;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take against such companies; and

(d) the steps proposed to provide medicines at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Prices of scheduled bulk drugs and formulations based thereon are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 1995. Prices of Non Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/ selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. Moreover, the drugs policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.

Health care services for ex-servicemen

779. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate health care services are not available for ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, whether Government have a proposal to enhance the health care facility for them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?